

[3 May, 2007]

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sanctioned in the State of Andhra Pradesh was 56539. The Scheme was approved for continued implementation in Tenth Plan (2002-2007) within the existing sanctioned Projects. However, in pursuance of the commitment as enunciated in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government, to provide a functional Anganwadi Centre in every settlement/habitation, the Scheme has been expanded twice, first in the year 2005-06 and again during 2006-07.

Year-wise details of sanctioned and operational Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the State of Andhra Pradesh are as under:—

| Year | No. of AWCs | No. of AWCs |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | sanctioned | Operationalized |
| | (cumulative) | (cumulative) |
| 31.3.2005 | 56539 | 53760 |
| 31.3.2006 | 66101 | 56364 |
| 31.3.2007 | 73944 | 60187 (as on 31.1.07) |

Besides these, 3409 Mini-Anganwadi Centres were also sanctioned for the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2006-07.

(c) The ICDS Scheme provides a package of six services viz. Supplementary Nutrition, Immunization, Health Check-up, Referral Services, Pre-School Non-formal Education and Nutrition and Health Education. Out of these, only Supplementary Nutrition was being provided to the targeted beneficiaries from the low-income families, from the very inception of the Scheme. However, pursuant to the Supreme Court directive of 7.10.2004, the Government of India issued guidelines to all the States/UTs stating that supplementary nutrition shall be provided to all beneficiaries, irrespective of income status of the family to which they belong.

Foreign patents in scientific areas

†*389. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the scientific areas in which India has obtained foreign patents during

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the last five years and the names of the scientists or departments who have contributed for obtaining such patents;

(b) the steps being taken to promote the scientific research in India;

(c) the number of scientific research institutions functioning in various fields under Central Government in the country; and

(d) whether achievements made by these scientific institutions are evaluated?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Foreign patents obtained by Indian research institutions and organizations during the last five years are in the broad areas of chemistry, drugs and pharmaceuticals, engineering, biomedical engineering, medical sciences, biotechnology, information technology, material sciences and herbal formulations. These patents have emanated from the institutions of various Central Government Departments/agencies such as Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Atomic Energy, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Information Technology, Central Government Public Sector Undertakings, private industries and universities with the involvement of a large number of scientists working in many different areas such as physical sciences, nuclear sciences, different fields of engineering like information technology, materials technology, mechanical engineering, medical sciences and biotechnology.

(b) The Government of India, on its part, has taken a number of steps to rejuvenate and promote scientific research in universities and other scientific institutes of excellence. The Plan allocation of scientific departments has been doubled from about Rs. 12000 crores in the Ninth Plan to about Rs. 25000 crores in the Tenth Plan and its is planned to increase it further in the Eleventh Plan. The Research Infrastructure Programme of DST is a targeted programme to upgrade the laboratory infrastructure in universities and other higher educational institutions. Several institutions, centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas have also been established; for example, in the areas of Brain Reseach, Marine Biotechnology, Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering, Soft Computing, Water Resources Development, Nanophosphors, Display Technology, Fuel Cell Technology, Ultrafast Processes, Protein Research, etc. More recently,

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two new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been set up at Kolkata and Pune which apart from carrying out frontline and internationally-competitive research, would offer M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically-flexible and research-oriented environment. Various agencies of Government of India have now attractive scholarship, fellowship and research support schemes for scientific manpower of all ages starting right from the school-level. The Government has also started some novel programmes to make our higher educational institutions professionally even more useful for developing technology. The DST programme of manpower development in collaboration with industry enhances the quality of technical education and makes it relevant for the industry through well-designed courses developed in close association with participating industries. A large network of S&T Entrepreneurship Parks and Technology Business Incubators has been established to synergize the technical expertise of engineering institutions and the commercial spirit of entrepreneurs for technology development and commercialization. A large number of technology development projects are now being jointly undertaken by higher educational institutions and industries. All these are strong pointers towards improvement in indigenous capabilities for technology development. In addition, the specialized departments such as Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) have their strong in-house research infrastructure to carry out research in many different areas to meet specific needs and also in cutting edge areas. These departments also promote scientific research through extramural funding.

(c) There are 822 research institutes and centres under various Central Government Departments and Central Public Undertakings which are working in different areas of science and technology in the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Changes in Guidelines on power capacity addition

*390. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have asked Government to make easier the guidelines of 19th January, 2005;